

31 August 2017

Dan Ruben, Executive Director
Equal Justice America
13540 East Boundary Road
Building II, Suite 204
Midlothian, Virginia 23112

Dear Mr. Ruben,

Having devoted most of my legal experience to advocacy at an administrative or local level, this summer I chose to broaden my experience through an internship in Washington D.C. As a legal clerk at MALDEF (The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund) I had the opportunity to support large-scale impact litigation and responses to federal policy changes. I am confident that the strategies and skills that I developed will lend themselves well to the public interest projects I pursue in Philadelphia for my 3L year.

At MALDEF I explored several pressing public interest concerns for both undocumented aliens and Latino citizens for the first time. First, I conducted a large research project assessing First Amendment protections for undocumented aliens who advocate for immigration law reform. This project was initiated after a partnering organization alerted MALDEF to the arrest of a community leader, raising fears that immigration officers may have been initiating enforcement against advocates in retaliation for speech. Second, I extensively monitored the actions of the Presidential Election Integrity Commission, flagging actions that indicated an animus against minority voters and an intent to purge voting rolls and increase voting restrictions. Additionally, I provided support to MALDEF's voting rights attorney as she developed a lawsuit against the Commission for violations of various federal laws.

I was also able to work on issue areas that had previously piqued my interest as a law student. Working closely with the education policy attorney, I researched possible statutory arguments against potential policy changes in the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights, particularly guidance addressing *Plyer v. Doe*, which guarantees undocumented alien children the right to free public schooling. Following Attorney General Sessions's July announcement that federal law enforcement grants would require cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, I researched possible legal claims that might enjoin this requirement. I also summarized the lawsuits Chicago and San Francisco filed in response.

While I did not have the opportunity to work with any individual clients directly, many of the issues that I researched will affect those that I have served through past clinical and EJA Fellowships in Philadelphia. In particular, over the past nine months many undocumented clients have expressed anxiety around potential changes to Philadelphia's sanctuary policy. One wage theft client with whom I worked closely declined to bring a substantial claim for owed wages and overtime because he feared retaliation from immigration officials. The new rules announced by AG Sessions create an uncertain enforcement environment for undocumented aliens living in cities with sanctuary policies. This will likely lead more individuals like my client to decline to cooperate with law enforcement or seek remedies for injustice.

Moreover, spending my summer working on litigation and policy reinforced my intention to seek post-graduate employment in direct legal services. While I was grateful for the opportunity to engage in important and impactful litigation and policy development, I believe that I am best suited for individual client services, which draws on my background in client counseling and case management.

The strategy and research skills that I developed at MALDEF will be invaluable as I move forward with my 3L and post-graduate career. Additionally, I look forward to drawing attention to important but less publicized issues back at Temple, such as the Election Integrity Commission. I am grateful to Equal Justice America for the opportunity to work on social justice issues this past summer.

Sincerely,

Anne Bonfiglio
Temple University Beasley School of Law
J.D. Candidate 2018



MALDEF

The Latino Legal Voice for Civil Rights in America.

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September 1, 2017

Katie Toman
Office Manager
Equal Justice America
Building II, Suite 204
13540 East Boundary Road
Midlothian, VA 23112

Dear Ms. Toman,

This letter serves as MALDEF's evaluation of Anne Bonfiglio's internship with our office for the Summer 2017 term. Ms. Bonfiglio served as a Legal Intern with the MALDEF Washington, D.C. office and was a recipient of EJA funds.

Ms. Bonfiglio was an exceptional legal intern, who contributed to the MALDEF mission to fight for social and political equality for Latinos living in the United States. Ms. Bonfiglio provided support for our public policy and litigation staff, and her assignments included research on legal theories or questions, federal policy, and litigation investigations.

Topic areas that Ms. Bonfiglio worked on included immigration, voting rights, education, and constitutional and administrative law. She assisted us with research potential opportunities for litigation against executive or agency actions, and monitoring of current events or developments relevant to our advocacy and lobbying efforts.

Ms. Bonfiglio proved to be a competent and thorough intern, and demonstrated that she could be trusted with complex legal research. In addition, she approached her work seriously and took the initiative to find ways to be helpful for her supervising attorneys.

We were happy to host Ms. Bonfiglio and because of her contributions have been able to move our work forward in the fight for the civil rights of Latinos, immigrants, and other marginalized communities. I look forward to seeing where her legal career takes her.

If you have any questions for our office, please feel free to reach out to me. I am available at asenteno@maldef.org or (202) 293-2828 x 19. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Andrea Senteno

Advancing Latino Civil Rights for over 49 Years
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